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From
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
To

July 25, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 R Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Assistant Director for Special Operations

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereto
communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCL

IR COPY

A. Bagdasarian
07/27/52

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
Rev. 1-25-60

WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/31/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/1/52	REPORT MADE BY CLIVE D. HUNTER, JR.
TITLE VITOLIS FORMANIS, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R & L

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject interviewed and denied ever having been a Communist or member of any Communist organization, or having possessed a membership card indicating such membership. Records of T-1 reflect subject has not been assigned to a military unit in the District of Columbia and has had no military activity here. There is no indication subject is engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States.

- 6 -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Subject was interviewed on April 22, 1952, by the writer and Special Agent ROBERT E. LEWIS. Subject advised that his parents fled from Riga, Latvia, in 1916 and resided in Rabinak, Russia, to avoid German domination during World War I. Subject stated he was born in Rabinak, Russia, in 1919. In 1920 when Latvia was free from German domination his parents returned with him to Riga, Latvia, where he continued to live until 1944.

FORMANIS stated that his father, MARTIN P. FORMANIS, was employed as a Controller in the city government of Riga until his retirement in 1946. For several years his father was active as a Social Democrat, but in 1932 gave up all political activities. FORMANIS described his father as anti-Communist, but stated he was placed in the position of Commissioner

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

by a Soviet salute of the subject without opportunity to defend himself against the charges placed against him. Subject explained that the University of Riga was similar to the older German universities and that the university of Riga was very conservative in its policies and some of the professors were pro-Germans in their sympathies. Subject stated that charges of being pro-Communist to this group.

Subject said his affiliation with "TINA" was terminated in April, 1940, and he spent the following six to eight weeks traveling around Latvia with an occasional visit to his parents in Riga. Subject indicated during this time he was unemployed and had no established residence outside of his apartment in Riga. He stated that travel was not restricted within the country and anyone could travel freely about the country without being interrogated and questioned by the German authorities. POJANIK stated the German forces took over Latvia in June, 1940, and he returned to Riga early within that month. He said he was almost immediately arrested by the German authorities and confined for six weeks in the Central Prison of Riga and he was questioned by the Germans for alleged Communist activities. He advised he was also questioned in connection with the disappearance of papers belonging to a Russian General. Subject explained that he and some friends out of curiosity made a tour of the building in Riga which had been occupied by the NKVD as a headquarters building and a prison. Papers belonging to a Russian General had been taken from the building at about the time the Russian forces had left the city and he, the subject, was among those suspected of being implicated in the removal of the papers. Subject stated he knew nothing of the papers or their contents and finally convinced the German authorities of this fact, at which time he was released. He claimed, however, that he was severely beaten during the imprisonment, and following his release was avoided by both the pro-Russian and pro-German factions in the city of Riga. Subject stated that his release by the Germans may have been influenced by the fact that his father sometime previously had aided a German, WILHELM, a German citizen, to escape from Russia to Germany after the Germans had become stranded behind Russian territorial lines.

Subject stated he reentered the University of Riga in 1940 and continued his studies until May, 1941, when he was graduated. He said his support during most of this period was provided by his parents. In July, 1941, subject was married to ANNA WASKYNS, a citizen of Riga. Shortly following their marriage the two were consigned to a forced labor camp at Bruck-on-Mur, Austria, for a period of nine months. Following their release

100-105-102

from the labor camp subject and his wife were residents of a Latvian displaced persons camp at Badlingen, Germany, until their departure for the United States in February, 1947.

Subject stated he and his wife, GLINA, arrived in the United States at New York City in February, 1947, and within one or two days proceeded to Detroit, Michigan, where they resided for a period with his wife's aunt and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. CHAS. J. JACKSON. Subject said he obtained employment as a Parts-Stock Clerk with General Motors Incorporated, and remained in that employ until June, 1951, at which time he came to Washington, D. C. Subject advised he had no particular reason for selecting Washington, D. C., as a place of residence, except that he desired to seek a new means of livelihood and also desired a change in climate. He said he knew no one in the city and had only the prospect of employment with the King Merritt Company as a mutual fund security salesman. Subject stated he had told some persons in Detroit that he was taking a position with the State Department but this was only a subterfuge as he had never intended seeking Government employment. Subject stated he and his wife had separated prior to his coming to Washington and that she is presently residing in New York City. He stated that divorce proceedings had already begun in Detroit before he left that city.

FORMANIS advised that his time in Washington, D. C., has been taken up with applying himself to learning his new work and seeking new clients for mutual fund securities. Subject stated he had used a Latvian language newspaper published in New York City as a medium of advertising and has received considerable number of inquiries by mail from Latvian and Lithuanian persons for literature explaining mutual fund investments. Subject stated his residence in Washington, D. C., from June until the end of 1951 was 1507 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. He is presently residing at 1801 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Apartment 808.

FORMANIS advised that in December, 1951, the divorce proceedings were completed in Detroit, Michigan, and he was married in Washington, D. C., on February 2, 1952, to JANINA TERESA SCHASTNE, a Latvian displaced person from Detroit, Michigan.

Subject stated that in September, 1950, he entered Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan, and in December, 1950, joined the Military Intelligence Reserve for three years. His military serial number is 12 16349509. Subject

WFO 100-432

stated he attended military training programs in Detroit, but has not attended any meetings or been assigned to any military unit in the District of Columbia. Subject advised he had been placed in a Russian language unit in the Military Intelligence Service in Detroit because of his knowledge of the Russian language.

Subject stated that he applied for and filed his first citizenship papers in 1947 and intends to file for the Petition for Naturalization as an American citizen in the immediate future. Subject stated that neither his first nor his present wife are American citizens. He said he desired to become an American citizen and has no intention of returning to Latvia or to Europe.

When questioned concerning ARNOLD BACATAIS of New York City, subject stated that he has only a slight acquaintance with that individual and has seen him only a very few times. Subject stated BACATAIS is supposed to be a good friend of Mrs. ALEXANDER BUKHOV of Detroit, Michigan, who is a sister of GAIUS POLAKIS, subject's first wife. Subject stated he knows nothing of any Communist activities or sympathies on the part of BACATAIS, except that he (BACATAIS) had mentioned on one occasion that he became involved with some Communist group several years ago through membership in a maritime union in New York City while employed as a Merchant Seaman. Subject said that he has no reason to believe that BACATAIS is pro-Communist and has no other knowledge concerning his activities or sympathies.

Subject, when questioned directly concerning his own activities and sympathies toward Communism, stated that he had never been a member of the Communist Party or a member of the Communist Party youth movement. He stated that he had never been the holder of a card of any kind which related to any Communist organization. POLAKIS said the only card he could recall having held in Europe was the press card he held while employed with the newspaper, "TINIS", in 1940 in Riga, Latvia. Subject stated he could not recall having displayed this card or any other card on any occasion for the purpose of establishing himself as a Communist or a representative of the Communist government. Subject said this card was surrendered by him when his employment with the newspaper was terminated. Subject further denied having written any articles in a newspaper praising the Soviet Union or denouncing his native country.

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The records of Confidential Informant T-1, another informant, have been reviewed in connection with the investigation of the Military Service of T-1. It is being maintained in an open status and that the subject has received no military training in the United States.

The records of the Marriage License Bureau, District of Columbia, reflect that William F. Brill was married to a woman in 1951 to a woman named SAMPA THOMAS SCHWARTZ, nee [redacted], a resident of [redacted], Latvia. The marriage ceremony was performed on February 2, 1952, by the Reverend WILLIAM F. BRUNING, Minister of the Gospel, Washington, D. C.

Inasmuch as there is no indication subject is presently engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States, no further investigation is contemplated in this matter and this case is being closed in a closed status unless information to the contrary are received from the Bureau.

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130

- 3 -

170